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# PEACE NEWS

## George Lansbury Worked For a Better World

### Lord Ponsonby's Tribute

GEORGE LANSBURY was of a very different type from the ordinary politician, writes Lord Ponsonby. The question of career never entered into his ambitions and calculations. He was out of Parliament when I first met him during the war of 1914-18, and I was greatly struck by his genuine enthusiasm for the anti-war line which I and others were proclaiming in the House of Commons.

Whether it was Peace or Woman's Suffrage, or his beloved Poplar, he upheld the causes to which he devoted his life with a spontaneous ardour and complete disregard of the conventions and traditions of parliamentary etiquette.

He burst out into attack or defence regardless of advancement or reputation. He always got down to the fundamental basis of his deep social and religious convictions, and no clever argument could shift him from the rock on which he had set his feet.

Nevertheless, when needed, a mastery of technicalities was by no means neglected. On subjects such as Poor Law, India, &c., he could show in instant careful judgment founded on knowledge. He was accused of being "Dick" Sheppard, in fact, who gave him the title of "Public Pacifist No. 1."

THE pacifist movement mourns the loss of its leader. After a long lifetime devoted to preaching the way to a better world—he was 81—George Lansbury died peacefully on Tuesday evening. We publish here tributes to this Grand Old Christian, Pacifist and Socialist from his close friends, Lord Ponsonby and the Rev. Henry Carter.

Below we outline Mr. Lansbury's recent work for peace, which has been given scant commendation in the Press.

### HIS WORK FOR PEACE

MR. LANSBURY'S pacifism, which survived the test of four wars, was founded, like his socialism, on his Christian faith. It was only natural that one who for so many years had clearly proclaimed the implications of that faith as he saw them, should have been asked by the late "Dick" Sheppard to become one of the first Sponsors of the Peace Pledge Union. It was "Dick" Sheppard, in fact, who gave G. L. the title of "Public Pacifist No. 1." In April of last year Mr. Lansbury



### I Have No Magic Carpet...

THE difficulties which confront statesmen today when considering how to bring about the change-over from nationalism to internationalism are colossal. What the conditions and difficulties will be at the close of the present war if it is fought to the bitter end, no one can say. Nevertheless those who desire to see something saved out of the wreckage which war will bring us should devote thought and time to a study of the subject.

There will be no miraculous change, except one on which I shall insist again and again. We must be converted away from the doctrine that some nations possess a greater right to life than others, and instead, accept as applicable to nations, the doctrine "He who would save his life must lose it."

This reads quite unreal and unpractical. It is, on the contrary, the most commonsense, practical teaching ever given to the world.

I am a Christian, a Pacifist, and a Socialist... I have no magic carpet on which our minds may travel to the unknown and come back with stores of distilled wisdom.

No, our road is much more prosaic and difficult, not impossible, to travel along. In fact, it is only difficult because the masses as yet will not believe it is straight and easy to travel.

The task of the peace-maker is like that of the transgressor, hard, and sometimes difficult, full of the hard ruts and stones thrown up by those who oppose all efforts to change society from one form of life to another. But in entering on this discussion, let us do so with a clear determination to shirk no issues and to follow truth wherever it may lead.

—George Lansbury in *This Way to Peace* (February, 1940).

### Two C.O.s Arrested

TWO more objectors were arrested last week and handed over to the military authorities for failure to comply with enlistment notices. They were John Mitchell, of Standedge, near Oldham, and Daniel Wright, of Winton, near Manchester.

Mitchell is believed to have submitted to medical examination in January; Wright was examined in September. Both cases were dismissed when they came before the Appellate Tribunal.

### Edited by "Observer"

### A Pacifist Commentary

### Labour and the Spread of Tyranny

WILFRED WELLOCK writes: The Labour Party Conference takes place this Whitsuntide at Bournemouth. It is to decide big issues.

Whatever be our attitude to politics or to political parties, such decisions the Labour Party will make at Bournemouth have much to do with the outstanding question of the day: shall totalitarianism be ended or extended?

The extension of totalitarianism to Britain will fundamentally affect the life of every British citizen.

we pacifists believe that war is

surest way of extending it, for

war is totalitarianism and aggravates

all the evils from which that tyranny springs.

The big debate at Bournemouth will

be on the issue of whether to end the

party truce: the party machine has seen

to it that the stop-the-war demand will

be swamped.

Three courses are open to the Conference:

1. It may continue the truce, in which case it is probable that, after a little while, certain members of the Labour Party will enter the War Cabinet. This alternative, up to now popular in the front ranks, has suffered a set-back among the rank-and-file

### Edited by "Observer"

### Labour and the Spread of Tyranny

owing to the reversal in Norway. The view is now widespread that the Government is too incompetent to be supported, officially, by the Labour Party.

2. The second alternative is to end the political truce and to put up an alternative to the Government, a coalition of Labour, Liberals, and certain Tories. This would be a no-half-measures, fight-to-a-finish, Government. It would take big risks, force the pace of the war and probably attack on several fronts simultaneously. The war would thus—sardonically enough—be fought out in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Yugoslavia, Rumania, the Black Sea—anywhere except in the countries of the belligerents—and would completely devastate the very countries which the Allies profess to be anxious to save. A totalitarian Europe would be the inevitable outcome.

3. The third alternative, which will

not be adopted at Bournemouth, but in which lies the only hope of saving democracy and ending totalitarianism anywhere, is a coalition of sane people who see where the whole ghastly business of this war is leading, and which seeks to get "above the battle" by means of a policy that will unite the peoples of all the belligerent countries—Britain, France and Germany—by providing the only basis upon which Europe can function as a democracy henceforth, that of international socialist co-operation.

Its sponsors ought to be the Labour

Party, the very Party that is at

present demanding a more vigorous

prosecution of the war. Nevertheless

there will be at Bournemouth—as elsewhere—a minority in favour of the peace coalition. Moreover its numbers will grow, and the Peace Pledge Union

has a duty in seeing that they do.

Other comments, by "Observer,"

appear on page 2.

### Not Unpractical

In September of the same year followed visits to leading men in France, Belgium and Scandinavia. An interview he gave to *Peace News* on his return answered those who charged him with shutting his eyes to facts and with being an unpractical idealist.

"I am not stupid enough to think that anything I may have said to them has immediately influenced any policy," he said. "But I think our discussions have brought out the fact that in every country both leading statesmen and the masses want peace."

Again, before leaving on his next visit to Hitler, in April, 1937—he said to *Peace News*: "We do not expect 'miracles.' All the same we have faith that our message of conciliation, justice and peace is true..." On that visit he secured from Hitler a statement of his willingness to attend a conference to thrash out economic problems if President Roosevelt or the head of any other great country would take the lead in calling it.

"I got from Hitler what I wanted," was G. L.'s comment. But the conference was never held...

(Continued on back page.)

### He was a Pilgrim for Peace

GEORGE LANSBURY'S book *My Quest for Peace* is open before me. On the title page, in his familiar writing, are the words:—

"A tiny token of remembrance of happy, worrying, hectic and peaceful days, working together at home and abroad, seeking the Spirit of Love and Peace."

The book is the story of the journeys in Europe which G. L. undertook in the last five years of his crowded life, already devoted to the service of the plain folk he loved so well. They were journeys whose sole object was to reason and plead with the statesmen who ruled European countries to turn from the fatal armaments race, and unitedly build peace for the sake of the common people of all lands.

We had formed in 1936 the free-lance Christian group which came to be known as "Embassies of Reconciliation." It grew out of talks at the International FoR conference which met in Cambridge that year. Charles Raven was its chairman, and Percy Bartlett its tireless secretary. George Lansbury was its ordinary man, striving to bring the minds of statesmen down to earth, asking them to realize whether they are

travelling, and before it is too late to come together and at least try to find

So in 1936 he saw Léon Blum and Van Zeeland, then Prime Ministers of France and Belgium respectively; and, later, went to Denmark, Norway and Sweden and saw their Premiers and Foreign Secretaries. From each he got the promise of help, and on return urged on members of the British Government the need to seize these offers of co-operation by democrats in peace-building.

There came to him, in the spring of 1937, the conviction that he must pass beyond discussion with fellow-democrats and meet the dictators face to face. Vividly I recall a talk in a Westminster restaurant. "I prayed this morning," he said, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," and I felt sure that I ought to go to Berlin and Rome and see Hitler and Mussolini. He went, and brought back Hitler's statement of willingness to join "in a united effort to establish economic co-operation and mutual understanding between the nations of the world." It was a

(Continued on back page.)

## A Pacifist Commentary . . . . . continued from page one

### Cause and Effect in Norway :: Holding the Germans Down—A Futile Post-War Policy :: The Tap-Root of Militarism

**I**N the heat of their indignation over Hitler's thrust to the North, many people may lose sight of the events immediately preceding it.

Some indication of cause and effect, however, was given in a chronology of news dispatches published in the April 13 issue of *Uncensored* (New York). It is unfortunately much too long for me to reproduce in full, but the following items are particularly revealing:

**March 29, Berlin:** "The increased activity of the British sea force in Norwegian waters is less successful it was to begin with, the more being followed by the German Admiralty with the flames of a reviving German nationalism considerable, but, allegedly, not apprehensive interest—for the time being. If this activity constitutes a part of the Anglo-French 'challenge' to the neutrality of Norway and Sweden, the Germans, it was hinted in informed circles, will not be late in answering it.

"The Reich's defence forces, these quarters added, are merely waiting for the moment that is to decide the nature of the methods to be adopted to ensure the protection of German commerce plying Norwegian territorial waters."

**March 30, London:** "The French and British believe they have it in their power—if that power is used ruthlessly enough—to force Germany into the field in any sector they select, much as if one presses a capped tube of toothpaste hard enough it will break out somewhere. The blockade, which is only partly effective thus far because of solicitude for neutral feelings, is the weapon that will be used..."

"If by exerting sufficient pressure on Sweden the Allies can bring about reduction of ore shipments to Germany, it is believed Herr Hitler will be forced into attack on Sweden, which will give the British and French a new opportunity in moving into Scandinavia—an opportunity for a flanking movement against Germany that was lost when Finland concluded peace with Russia."

**April 9, London:** "Now that the Allies have taken the long delayed but long planned action in Norwegian territorial waters to interrupt German contraband by what is termed technical violation of the Scandinavian country's neutrality, chief interests here lies in what Germany plans to do about it..."

#### Twisting it

**H**EIL FRIENDS—Peace Union to the Nazis." Thus did a smart sub-editor on the *Daily Express* headline a story in its issue of May 1.

This was the story:

"Two resolutions passed at the annual general meeting in London of the Peace Pledge Union:—

"1. That this conference...desires to reaffirm its friendship with the German and all other people in all lands;

"2. That this annual general meeting...assures all conscientious objectors in this country of the fullest support it can give.

"Hail Friends—Peace Union to the World"—would have been a more accurate heading and would have taken no more space. I wonder why it wasn't used?

#### Holding Them Down

**M**ISTER DUFF COOPER has recently followed the lead of Professor Saurat in urging that we should not trust the Germans to keep the peace after this war. Hold them down; put garrisons in their towns—that is the sort of argument that is becoming increasingly common.

The desire for security is understandable, but is this the way to get it? Pacifists have always said "No." Now comes Commander Stephen King-Hall, MP—certainly no pacifist—to answer those who advocate such a futile and dangerous policy.

In his *News Letter* recently he wrote: "How is the menace of war to be removed from Europe? Will the military defeat of Germany ensure this purpose being achieved?"

"The story of 1919 to 1939 gives a mocking answer.

"Some people will say 'The results will be different if the military defeat of Nazi Germany is followed by the permanent maintenance of Allied superiority over Germany by garrisons, by splitting Germany into States, or suchlike

"But when we have achieved military victory, and it will be a costly task in blood and treasure, will our young men and their parents be prepared to make the necessary sacrifices to hold down Germany for ten, fifteen, or twenty years?"

"A peace dependent solely upon an affirmative answer to this question would be on frail foundations.

"Within five years from the imposition of the most stringent terms on Germany, a revisionist politics based on force lead to disaster; that basis of dealing with the German people must as soon as practicable be replaced by something else. If, in 1942, we defeat Germany by the use of superior force, and if (a big 'if') we are still holding down Germany in 1952 by force, in the sense that we are then denying her equality on the ground that she cannot be trusted, then the victors who were denying him equality.

"If this argument is correct, the inevitable disinclination of the post-war Briton to spend a substantial part of his energy in holding down Germany, a disinclination which may be shared by post-war Frenchmen, can only be guarded against by ensuring that the peace settlement is under-written psychologically by a substantial proportion of the German people."

#### Why Conscription Must Go

**I**N connexion with another aspect of post-war policy, E. C. WILLIMENT, of Swanley, Kent, writes:

The danger of conscription becoming a permanent feature of the "abiding peace" of the brave new world now being designed by the architects of the second world-war (which destroyed the "abiding peace" created by the first world-war), makes the following quotations from General J. C. Smuts' proposals—formulated in December, 1918—for the constitution of the projected new League of Nations, very interesting:

"Of the three proposals for disarmament, the abolition of conscription is by far the most im-

portant."

"I would plead most earnestly for the abolition of conscription at the peace conference."

"I would go so far as to say that while the great Powers are allowed to raise conscript armies without hindrance or limit, it would be in vain to expect the lasting preservation of world peace. If the instrument is ready for use, the occasion will arrive and the men will arise to use it. I look upon conscription as the tap-root of militarism; unless that is cut, all our labours will eventually be in vain."

#### Demands of Humanity

**W**ITH the concentration of abnormally large British and French fleets in the eastern Mediterranean continuing, Italy's attitude to the war is still the subject of speculation. Hitler is reported to be awaiting Mussolini's assent to stage yet another move.

No-one can forecast with certainty the line the Italian dictator will take; one can only hope that he will take note of the remarkable demonstration in favour of keeping out of the war which happened in Rome last weekend.

At a service in the Vatican, the Pope, after a sermon entirely "imbued with the idea of peace," uttered an extempore and earnest prayer for peace, to which (according to the *Daily Telegraph*) "the thousands who had stood in deep silence packed together in the nave of the church gave their assent not by repeating after the Pope the word 'Amen,' but by clapping their hands and by continuing to clap their hands for some five minutes."

Commenting on this demonstration, the Star said:—

"The voice of those people in Italy who applauded the sermon in which the Pope appealed for peace is the voice of reason in the world. They spoke, not only for the common people of Italy, but for the world. Whether their dictator heeds them or not, they have done the world a service: they have reminded us of the sanity underlying the present madness. They feel, as those English mothers whose action has been criticized at Clacton felt when they put flowers on the coffins of Nazi airmen, that the demands of humanity are greater than all the demands of the dictators."

"Of the Dictators" only?

#### War and Lying

"It is impossible to conduct a large-scale war successfully without systematic lying. That was discovered years and years ago. If you tell the truth about the other side your own people will soon realize that their supposed enemies are brothers of the human race and poor, struggling devils like themselves.—W. E. Woodward, *A New American History*.

MacLean, 4 Doughty Mews, London, W.C.1.

something useful from your bombers: that was the suggestion made by John Barclay, Group Organizer of the Peace Pledge Union, at a meeting in the Coulsdon Labour Hall recently.

He said: "If I were Prime Minister for a week I would order millions of small clothes to be done up in

#### PARCELS

(nothing to fit Goering or Goebbels), and send every bomber I could raze up over industrial towns of Germany. There these parcels would be dropped, labelled 'A present from the English people.'

And John Barclay would

#### NOT

stop at sending gifts by air. He added that as well as sending the Germans clothes for children he would use the convoys to take shiploads of coffee to Hamburg, and leave them there with banners saying: "A present to the Germans from the English." The Germans would then say to themselves: "The Leader says the British want to starve us and yet they give us this." This would undermine Hitler's power.

In short, a much better idea than

#### BOMBS

### Advisory Bureaux for Objectors

Following are further amendments and additions to the lists of Advisory Bureaux for COs already published in *Peace News*. Any similar changes should be sent to the Central Advisory Bureau, at Dick Sheppard House, 6 Edsleigh Street, London, W.C.1, and not to *Peace News*.

#### Amendments

**COALVILLE.** J. E. White, 19 Greenfield Drive, Coalville, nr. Leicester.

**DURHAM.** Miss M. Poulter, 66 Claypath, Durham.

**NEW MELDEN.** Cyril F. Knight, 19 Onslow Road, New Malden, Surrey.

**YORK.** Mr. C. Hutchinson, Craggy Field, Galtres Grove, York.

**Additions**

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# TRUTH AND OURSELVES

By John Barclay

WHEN Galileo stated that the world moved round the sun, he was tortured for telling what was the simple truth. We are constantly faced with the problem of speaking out or remaining quiet. To remain quiet at your own command is one thing but to refuse to speak the truth because it is dangerous to the State is another.

Such is the subject of the Bow Street summons, now pending as I write. The answer that the PPU must give to such a challenge is to speak the truth more diligently than before and spend every available penny of buying literature from Dick Sheppard House and making it widely known.

The old saying that Truth is the first casualty in war may soon be abundantly evident. The only ambulance work that can restore the truth to the world is the constant witness to it by devoted individuals.

The times we live in are so bereft of sanity and so lacking in the spirit of good will and understanding that it is our primary duty to cultivate these barren days with heavy dressings of truth. Therefore, whatever you do for your own edification, make it a first call on your purse to supply literature to those engulfed in war-neurosis.

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FARM WORK for young physically fit men. Experience unnecessary. Good wages, accommodation and excellent opportunities for thorough training to the right men. Must be able to commence work this month. Full details: Pacifist Service Bureau, 6 Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.

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#### Wanted

CO (20) awaiting Appeal, urgently desires employment, preferably clerical. Living SW London.—Box 437, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

CO (25) seeks job near Manchester, try anything, clerical experience.—Box 400, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

CO (aged 25) seeks release from war-work urgent. Experienced book-keeper-cashier and office routine. Go anywhere. Birmingham preferred.—Box 439, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

CO (24), married, awaiting Tribunal, thoroughly experienced clerk, shorthand-typist. Seek release war work.—Harris, 65 Sandringham Road, E.10.

PACIFIST (19) requires work of any kind, 4 years' clerical experience.—Box 441, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

PACIFIST (21), B.Sc., chemistry, physics, experienced agricultural analyses, fertilizers, sulphuric acid, seeks useful position anywhere.—Box 429, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, N.4.

PACIFIST (23), with shop assistant, packing experience, requires situation. Anything considered.—Box 442, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

PACIFIST (25), well educated. Degree languages. Desires agricultural work in or near Birmingham. Some experience.—Box 438, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

PACIFIST (27), single, requires farm work at once, inexperienced, willing to learn. Live in, pocket money. Go anywhere.—Crabtree, 182, Leymoor, Goole, Huddersfield.

YOUNG MAN requires digs. Pacifist house, Seven Kings, Ilford area. Moderate terms.—Box 443, Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

### WHERE TO STAY

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HASTINGS. Mary and Kenneth Wray, "Tinkers Dell," Haste, welcome Guests. Beautiful country; easy bus distance of sea. 2s. gns. double, 3s. gns. single. Vegetarian or meat.

LONDON: FOWLER, "Newlyn House," 9 Argyle Street, W.C.1. B. and B., 5s.; double 8s. 6d. Opposite St. Pancras Station. Tel: 3572.

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TUESDAY, 14th MAY  
St. Peter's Hall, Hinton Rd., Bournemouth.

R. W. SORENSEN, M.P.  
DR. A. D. BELDEN  
COUNCILLOR W. C. ELLIOTT

Subject:

"LABOUR AND PEACE."

Chair to be taken at 7.30 p.m. by  
MISS MINNIE PALLISTER.

We often forget how extremely fortunate we are as a movement in having so many first-class writers in our ranks; men of world-wide reputation in religion, art and politics are writing our latest pamphlets and serving on our Councils. Fools we should be indeed if we did not use this moment to display our talents to the world. I do urge you to buy our literature in large quantities and use your energy in getting it out into the hands of all those who will read—and they are legion.

During the weekend of the Annual General Meeting £25 worth of books and pamphlets were sold. We could make this our daily average if everyone would take a part in distribution.

In any case, consider. Have you read the latest "Bond of Peace" pamphlets by Canon Raven, Middleton Murry, Wilfred Wellock and Eric Gill; or the books of Max Plowman and Laurence Housman or Vera Brittain? Do you have our Literature List, and how many of your friends know the history of the Peace Pledge Union? Are the books of Dick Sheppard in your shelves and how many of the leaflets bearing his name have been distributed in your area?

Finally, on this all-important question of truth; do you believe that you yourself have become involved? It depends upon how much each one of us takes up the burden of responsibility as to the final victory for truth. Let our witness be both personal and public, silent and vocal as well as complete.

Latest time for copy,  
Tuesday morning

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### "A Truly Pacific Programme"

IF we were a pacifist people, the Peace Pledge Union could reasonably use the slogan "Negotiate Now," knowing that our Government's generosity and sincerity would strike the responsive spark in the German character so that true peace could be sought together. But—and it is a big "but"—we are not a pacifist people.

In such circumstances, as we know, crying "Stop the War," or "Negotiate Now" will not stop the war but will, and does, start the fury which is a durable shield against reason or witness. So that, far from dissembling or retreating if we discard those slogans, we will be discarding expressions which circumstances have made radically opposed to pacifism.

But I would go further and stress the great practical advantages of another truly pacific programme. If we devote every effort toward restoring the friendly and generous feelings so many are losing entirely, and toward winning constant practical assurances from our governors that they too value those feelings, then we will be trying, not so directly but much more surely, to "stop the war."

J. W. NEWELL.

### If Germany Wins

IN this war with Germany there are two things to worry about; Britain may lose or "win." If she should lose there are two things to worry about, Hitler might suppress all freedom, or he might not.

If he did, there would be two things to worry about; that pacifists became cowards and ceased to witness to what they believed true, or that they remained faithful to the end.

Short of pre-organized passive resistance, each must decide for himself what action to take.

H. K. COMPTON.

64 Granville Street, Gloucester.

I think the following extract from a letter which I wrote to the *Sunday Pictorial* in reply to a leading article which appeared in that newspaper, fully answers your correspondent's point:

"You then go on to assert—like your co-partner the *Daily Mail*—that we are, in effect, friends of Hitler. How do you justify this statement when we are told that our counterparts in Germany have been shot or put into concentration camps? Is it not plain to you that we neither uphold this country's participation in warfare nor Germany's—that whatever our nationality our conscience would be the same?"

One must not forget the fact that even Nazi-Germany has its pacifists.

ALFRED T. FITZGIBBON.

31 Randall Drive, Hornchurch, Essex.

### WOMEN'S PEACE CAMPAIGN

There will be a meeting in Hyde Park at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, in support of the Women's Appeal to Governments. The speakers will be Mary Gamble, Dorothy Evans, Sybil Morrison and others.

On the same day in Holland women are holding their annual Peace Procession as usual and have written to us asking for a message of sympathy and support. The following message has been sent:—"The Women's Peace Campaign send you their heartfelt good wishes in your efforts for International understanding and fellowship and unite with you on May 18 in a demonstration in Hyde Park, London, appealing for Peace negotiations now."

Sybil Thorndike assisted by her daughter, Ann Casson, will give a series of poetry readings on the following dates:

Sunday, May 19, 8 p.m. Millicent Fawcett Hall, 46 Tufton Street, Westminster. Introduced by Mary Gamble.

Sunday, June 2, 8 p.m. Dick Sheppard Club, Binney Street (off Oxford Street). Introduced by John Middleton Murry.

Sunday, June 16, 8 p.m. Dick Sheppard Club, Binney Street. Introduced by Richard Ward.

Sunday, June 30, 8 p.m. Dick Sheppard Club, Binney Street. Introduced by Sybil Morrison.

Admission will be free with a silver collection in aid of the funds of the Women's Peace Campaign. Leaflets and admission tickets are now ready.

SYBIL MORRISON,  
6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1.

Members of Committee: Miss Mary Gamble (Chairman), Miss Sybil Morrison (Secretary), Mrs. Kinnish, Miss Muriel Bolderom, Mrs. Grindlay, Miss Dorothy Evans, Mrs. Barclay, Mrs. Roberts, Dame Sybil Thorndike, Miss E. B. Ross.

### FIRMER THAN EVER

It may be that we shall find it difficult to hold meetings, or even possibly to have our Peace News. This may give a feeling of isolation to many, but we must remember that round us are thousands of others who think as we do, and if it comes to the point that we are hounded by the British equivalent of the German Gestapo, that is the time to make our stand firmer than ever.

"MANCHESTER MEMBER PPU."

### TO TEACHERS

At the AGM of the Hants and Isle of Wight Association of Assistant Masters at Bournemouth on May 25, the following resolution will be moved: "That the executive is urged to watch carefully for cases of victimization of conscientious objectors and to take appropriate action if necessary." I shall be glad to hear from any AMA member who can attend, and of details of the victimization or attempted victimization of any teacher.

RONALD S. MALLONE, 53 Musgrave Road, New Cross, S.E.14.

### TO PUBLIC SERVANTS

I would appreciate opinions from readers on the suggestion that it might be advantageous if all public servants linked up to form one large group rather than two or three smaller ones. There is the Civil Service Pacifist Fellowship in addition to the Local Government Officers' Peace Group.

WILLIAM G. FORD, 8 Kingswood Avenue, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

### COMMUNITY OF SERVICE

As a result of many conversations during and after the PPU annual general meeting, I am putting out a suggestion for a "community of service" to be situated in London. The main essentials of such a community are, I gather (1) the ideal of service, (2) absolute personal freedom within the community, (3) the pooling of incomes and the common ownership of all property. Will any persons who are willing to help in this scheme in any way, and all those who are interested, please communicate with me.

LESLIE JOHNS, 8 Osborne House, St. Mary's Terrace, W.2.

### ALTERNATIVE TO WAR

George E. Hurdle urges us to accept every atrocity story as true, and base our pacifist argument on the efficacy of non-violent resistance. Non-violent resistance is not exclusively a matter of mass non-cooperation (the negative side of the method), but demands as its positive aspect the confrontation of untruths with truth.

The pacifist is at this moment engaged on a non-violent "campaign" against the forces and interests which lead to war and poverty, and it is his duty to oppose the spreading of untruths in the form of atrocity stories.

JOHN E. RADCLIFFE, Quinton, Birmingham.

### P.P.U. SCOTTISH AREA CONFERENCE

Glasgow, 10th-12th May

Friday 10th, 7.30 p.m. Tickets 2/6d.  
Opening Social, Miss Rombach's Restaurant, 5, Waterloo Street.  
Sir Hugh S. Robertson.

Saturday 11th  
11 a.m. Opening of Dick Sheppard Centre

48, Dundas Street.

By Miss Sybil Morrison.

2.30-8 p.m. Scottish Conference  
Christian Institute, Bothwell Street.  
Conference fee—1/-.

Sunday 12th<br

## HIS WORK FOR PEACE

(Continued from page 1)

July, 1937, found this tireless worker for peace in Rome, talking to Mussolini.

The Italian paper *Tribuna* said of him: "We do not know if men like George Lansbury can influence the course of history, but it is certain that contact with him does one good, because it makes one feel more serene. His great sincerity appears beyond discussion."

The same month Mr. Lansbury spoke at the opening of the conference of the War Resisters' International in Copenhagen. His speech was broadcast in Denmark. Mr. Lansbury had become President of the WRI a few months previously.

### His Missions

Czechoslovakia, Poland and Austria were visited on the next peace mission—in December. "If Britain would invite the world to give three months' expenditure on armaments, for a start," said the missionary-in-chief when he returned, "to the work of finding a solution for Europe's economic problems, I am sure an immense load would be removed from men's minds as to the fear of war."

Britain made no such invitation, or Czechoslovakia and Poland might never have suffered as they were soon to do.

Another mission was undertaken when Europe seemed under the shadow of imminent war—August, 1938. This time Sofia, Belgrade, Bucharest, and Budapest were visited; King Carol of Rumania was among those with whom he talked on that visit.

By the end of 1938 the hopes raised in some quarters after Munich had disappeared. Mr. Lansbury's next move was to write to the Pope in March, 1939, suggesting the calling of a conference of the world's religious leaders, to meet in Jerusalem at Easter.

### Move to Stop War

But the world did not follow Mr. Lansbury's way and he suffered the bitter disappointment of seeing yet another war break out. His faith had in no way weakened and in November last, in *Peace News* and elsewhere, he invited people to sending him a postcard if they supported the attempt of Queen Wilhelmina and King Leopold to get the belligerents to stop the war and settle their differences by negotiation. More than fifteen thousand people soon responded.

These untiring efforts to bring the world to the path of sanity were recognized by members of both Houses of Parliament when, in January of this year, they nominated Mr. Lansbury for the Nobel Peace Prize. Many other prominent people supported the nomination.

Though later events prevented anything coming of this nomination, a wide circle of his friends were able to give him a reminder of their friendship before he died, for in July last they presented him with a portrait bust by the refugee sculptor, Joseph Abbo.

### Prejudice and "Pride"

BY Monday 100 men in the Isle of Man must join the forces, get jobs on the mainland, or live on what money their relatives can spare them.

After that day the Manx Government will not give the dole to anyone of military age who is medically fit and has not volunteered for service.

"Islanders are proud" (reports the *Daily Express*) "that among the 3,000 men—there is a population of 50,000—sent to the colours there has not been one conscientious objector."

"Two Manxmen have applied for exemption on conscientious grounds, but it is hoped they will change their minds before they face the tribunal."

The address to which pacifists should send messages of support for the Dutch women's peace march in Amsterdam on May 18 is: Miss dr. M. A. Thiel, 19 Laan van Meerdervoort, The Hague, Holland—and not the address we published last week.

## Government's Attitude to Pacifist Propaganda

### IMPORTANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS

TWO events falling between the time of going to Press and the appearance of this issue should serve to make clearer the attitude of the Government to pacifist propaganda in general and the Peace Pledge Union in particular.

It was reported on Wednesday that the Home Secretary would make a statement in the House of Commons yesterday (Thursday) "about the regulations for dealing with propaganda directed against the national war effort."

This follows agitation by certain back-bench Conservative Members of Parliament and subsequent consultations between Sir John Anderson and Opposition leaders.

Yesterday, too, the four chief officers of the Peace Pledge Union were summoned to appear at Bow Street, London, police court on charges under the Defence Regulations. They were:

Dr. Alex Wood (Chairman),  
Stuart Morris (General Secretary),  
Maurice L. Rountree (Hon. Treasurer),  
John Barclay (Group Organizer).

### The Charges

The charge against them was that "with intent to procure the contravention of Regulation 39A (1) (a) of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939," they had under their control "documents of such a nature that the dissemination of copies thereof among persons in His Majesty's service would constitute such a contravention contrary to Regulation 39A (1) (b) of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939."

A further charge against them, and also against Ronald H. Smith (of Forest Hill) and Sidney Todd (of Bodicote, near Banbury), read: (that they) "did endeavour to cause among persons in His Majesty's service disaffection likely to lead to breaches of their duty, contrary to Regulation 39A (1) (a) of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939." It was understood that this charge arose out of the displaying of a PPU poster, while the other referred to its being "under their control."

### Maximum Penalty

The part of the Defence Regulations referred to reads:

"No person shall (a) endeavour to seduce from their duty persons in His Majesty's service or engaged under any public authority in the performance of functions in connexion with the defence of the realm or the securing of the public safety, or to cause among such persons disaffection likely to lead to breaches of their duty, or (b) with intent to contravene, or to aid, abet, counsel or procure a contravention of, sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, have in his possession or under his control any document of such a nature that the dissemination of copies thereof among such persons as aforesaid would constitute such a contravention."

The maximum penalty for an offence against this regulation is a fine of £100 and imprisonment for three months (or, if the case were to go before a jury, £500 and two years).

*Peace News* understands that about a fortnight ago police officers visited the headquarters of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in London and bought some literature which they wished to examine. The FoR offices were raided in the last war.

### Or Courage?

"Height of coolness?" In a crowded West End café two young writers shared a table with two Army officers in uniform.

"One of the writers borrowed a pencil from one of the officers; wrote—and read aloud—an anti-war poem."

—William Hickey, *Daily Express*.



In a recent Parliamentary debate it was suggested that our unemployment was a hidden reserve of power which other countries did not possess.



The four leaders of the P.P.U. who have been summoned. Above (l. to r.): Dr. Alex Wood, Stuart D. Morris, Maurice L. Rountree. Right: John Barclay.

### News of Objectors

## "Employers Should Accept Tribunals' Decisions" — Judge

### BUT DISMISSELS CONTINUE

A COMMENT on the action of employers who dismiss conscientious objectors was made by the chairman of the Lancashire tribunal for COs, Judge R. C. Essenhough, last Thursday.

## PACIFISTS AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

PACIFISTS will be active at the Labour Party's conference in Bournemouth this weekend.

On Whit-Monday there will be a conference on "Pacifists and the Labour Party" in the Labour Hall, Lincoln Avenue, at 3 p.m. Chairman will be Reginald Sorensen, MP. At 7.30 p.m. there will be a public meeting in St. Peters Hall, Hinton Road, advertised elsewhere in this issue.

Organizers of these meetings are the Labour Pacifist Fellowship (in the second case in conjunction with the PPU). Annual general meeting of the LPF was held last week, when Councillor William C. Elliott, its secretary, said there was evidence that it was bringing back into activity within the Party many members who had become inactive or whose membership had lapsed.

It was agreed that the purpose of the Fellowship was to bring together individual pacifists and groups of pacifists within the Labour Party, for mutual encouragement and the stimulation of activity.

Activities will fall under four main headings: 1. Living pacifism; 2. Support for non-violent action in the struggle against the evils of capitalism; 3. Work for the attainment of socialism by non-violent means; 4. Education and propaganda with a view to bringing the Party's foreign policy into line with pacifist beliefs.

## "Peace News" Sellers Fined

ONE of five men fined 5s. for obstruction while selling political literature outside Hyde Park, alleged in Marlborough Street Police Court on Monday that there was a definite attempt to prevent progressive literature being sold, particularly *Peace News*. The seller, Mr. C. J. Waller, added that it was significant that some people, including members of the official Labour Party, were allowed to sell literature and never brought to court.

The other men were: E. Billing, G. T. Broadway, J. H. Hutchinson, and H. McCartney.

The magistrate (Sir Gervais Rentoul) said they could be quite sure of getting justice.

Another *Peace News* seller, Miss Georgina Hands, of Faversham, was charged at Clerkenwell Police Court on Friday with using insulting behaviour and obstructing the footway at Tottenham Court Road.

Miss Hands was fined 7s. 6d. and a guinea costs on the charge of obstruction.

### Summoned for Refusing Medical Examination

IT HAS apparently been decided at last to take action against conscientious objectors who, having been through the tribunals, refuse to obey summonses to undergo medical examination.

When objectors have not refused, but have later refused to obey calling-up notices, they have been arrested. But so far refusals at the first stage have only been followed by repeated notices to appear for examination.

Now, however, at least two objectors have been summoned to appear in the police court for refusing to answer summonses to medical examination. They are:

George Plume (whose original registration as a "political" objector was successfully appealed against by the Minister of Labour), who is to appear at Tottenham police court Thursday next; and

H. D. Wilson, of Hull, who appealed against being registered for military service, but was ordered to do non-combatant duties.

Evidence Needed

at Reading

It is important for objectors appearing before the new tribunal at Reading to take witnesses and letters with them. Without such evidence the applicant is rarely successful, reports a correspondent.

IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PLACE A STANDING ORDER FOR "PEACE NEWS" THROUGH EITHER A NEWS-AGENT OR A GROUP.

## PEACE NEWS

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Copies of "Peace News" ordered last week: 32,689. Last week's donations to "Peace News" Fund: £5 6s. 9d. Total of "Peace News" Fund to date £620 1s. 7d.

(The Peace News Fund was launched to raise money for other branch of the Peace Pledge Union's activity the subsidy paid to *Peace News*. Though the paper is now self-supporting, the debt for the subsidy paid over several months remains, and we would therefore welcome donations of any size to enable us to pay it off as soon as possible. Individual acknowledgments will be sent. Cheques should be made payable to Peace News Ltd., and sent to 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.)

Neither the Peace Pledge Union nor *Peace News* itself is necessarily committed to views expressed in the articles we publish. (Unless does the acceptance of advertisements imply endorsement of any views expressed therein or PPU connection with matter advertised.) Contributions are welcome through the post, if possible, and one copy only of the paper should be used. They may not be returned unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed, nor can we undertake to acknowledge all correspondence owing to increased cost of postage.

## He was a Pilgrim for Peace

(Continued from page 1)

real opportunity. Hitler had not then turned decisively to a war-policy to redress German grievances. Had this opportunity been seized, the foundations of durable peace laid.

But it was lost. European tensions increased. Undaunted, G. L. went in December, 1937, to Prague, Warsaw and Vienna. Percy Bartlett and I accompanied him. His prestige assured long interviews with the Presidents and other statesmen of all three countries.

In August, 1938, on the same mission where the direct effort was repeated, George Lansbury had long discussions with the Premier of Bulgaria, King Carol of Rumania, Prince Paul, the Regent of Jugoslavia, and Admiral Horthy in Hungary. The purpose of these interviews, and the possibility of peace which G. L. knew to exist, were communicated to responsible British statesmen in the hope that British policy might yet sustain the Van Zandt national economic collaboration.

One final effort was made. In August last, actually a few weeks before the outbreak of war, we travelled hurriedly to Brussels, and together saw M. Pierlot, the Prime Minister. The next day G. L. had a long private audience with the King of the Belgians; one can say with truth that all that the King of a small neutral State could do to avert war King Leopold attempted.

Was there ever another such Pilgrim of Peace? Long beyond the three score years and ten of man's earthly journeying he toiled, for love of Christ and humanity, to hold back the evil meed of war's destructive furies, to turn the mind of rulers and peoples towards the peace that could spring from a consideration of each other's needs. To keep before a darkening world a vision of a Fatherhood of love and a brotherhood of mutual service.

STOP PRESS